

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vaccinia virus vector comprising a vector sequence, a promotor selected from the group consisting of a eukaryotic promoter and a viral promoter, said promoter being operatively linked to a nucleic sequence to allow expression of an HCV single or specifically oligomerized E1 envelope viral protein, with said nucleotide sequence being characterised further in that it encodes a single HCV E1 protein starting in the region between amino acid positions 117 and 192 and ending in the region between amino acid positions 285 and 400.

69. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vaccinia vector comprising a vector sequence, a promotor selected from the group consisting of a eukaryotic promoter and a viral promoter, said promoter being operatively linked to a nucleic sequence to allow expression of an HCV single or specifically oligomerized E1 envelope viral protein, with said nucleotide sequence being characterised further in that it encodes a single HCV E1 protein starting in the region between amino acid positions 117 and 192 and ending in the region between amino acid positions 285 and 326.

70. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector according to claim 68 wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence encoding an HCV leader

sequence attached before a sequence encoding an HCV envelope E1 protein starting at amino acid position 192.

Claims 71-72. (Canceled)

73. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector according to any one of claims 68-70 and 102, with said nucleotide sequence further comprising operably linked a 5'-terminal ATG codon and a 3'-terminal stop codon.

74. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector according to any one of claims 68-70 and 102 with said nucleotide sequence being characterised further in that a factor Xa cleavage site and/or 3 to 10, preferably 6, histidine codons have been added 3'-terminally to the coding region.

Claim 75. (Canceled)

76. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vector comprising a vector sequence, a promotor selected from the group consisting of a eukaryotic promoter and a viral promoter, said promoter being operatively linked to a nucleic sequence to allow expression of an HCV single or specifically oligomerized E1 envelope viral protein starting in the region between amino acid positions 1 and 192 and ending in the region between amino acid positions 250 and 400, said nucleotide sequence being

characterised further in that at least one of the glycosylation sites present in said E1 has been removed at the nucleic acid level.

Claims 77-84. (Canceled)

85. (Currently Amended) A method for immunizing a mammal comprising administering a recombinant vector according to any one of claims 68-70, 76, 95 and 102 ~~composition of claim 79~~ to said mammal.

Claim 86. (Canceled)

87. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector according to any one of claims 69-70, 76, 95 and 102, with said vector being characterized as a live recombinant vector.

88. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector according to any one of claims 69-70, 76, 95 and 102 wherein said vector is a vaccinia virus vector.

89. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector according to any one of claims 69-70, 76, 95 and 102 wherein said vector is avipox.

90. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector according to any one of claims 69-70, 76, 95 and 102 wherein said vector is Ankara Modified Virus (AMV).

Claims 91-94. (Canceled)

95. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vector comprising any of the sequences as represented by SEQ ID NOs: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 29, 31.

96. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vector of any one of claims 68-70, 76 and 102 wherein said nucleotide sequence is a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NOs: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 29, 31.

97. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vector of claim 69 wherein said nucleotide sequence is a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NOs: 7, 9, 11, 13, 29, 31.

Claims 98-101. (Canceled)

102. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector according to claim 69 wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence encoding an HCV leader sequence attached before a sequence encoding an HCV envelope E1 protein starting at amino acid position 192.